



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Great Falls Elementary
Chester

Grades: PK-5

Enrollment: 436

Principal: Jerry Digh

Superintendent: Mr. Larry B. Heath

Board Chair: Dr. Richard Hughes

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2009	Below Average	Below Average	TBD	TBD	Not Met	R
2008	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	RP
2007	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	CA

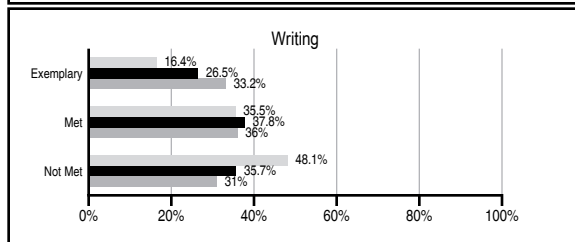
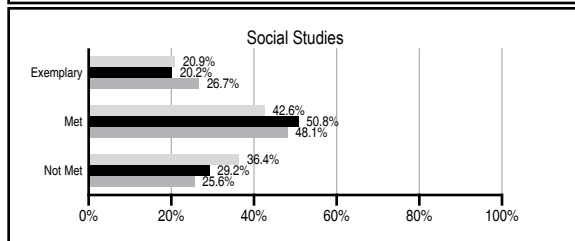
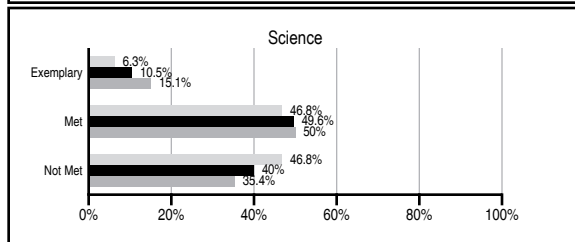
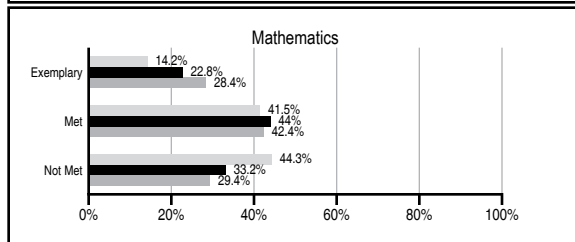
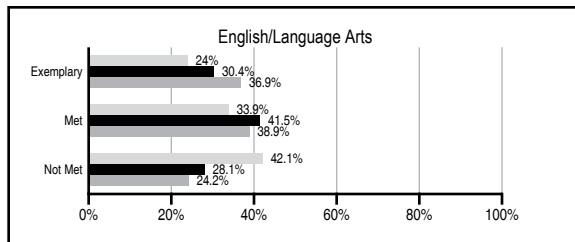
ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	9	91	17	1

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 06/01/2010. Schools with Students Like Ours are Elementary Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

PASS PERFORMANCE

Our School Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours Elementary schools statewide



NAEP PERFORMANCE*

* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.

READING – GRADE 4 (2007)

South Carolina	41	33	20	5
Nation	34	34	24	7
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced

MATH – GRADE 4 (2007)

South Carolina	20	44	31	5
Nation	19	43	33	5
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced

SCIENCE – GRADE 4 (2005)

South Carolina	36	39	23	2
Nation	34	39	25	2
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced

SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:

By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 Vision:

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined

NI Newly Identified CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

Great Falls Elementary [Chester]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=436)				
Retention rate	3.8%	Down from 5.3%	2.4%	1.9%
Attendance rate	95.2%	No Change	96.1%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	9.0%	Down from 10.4%	7.4%	10.0%
With disabilities other than speech	9.0%	Down from 11.2%	9.0%	7.7%
Older than usual for grade	3.4%	No Change	0.6%	0.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	4.6%	Up from 0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=30)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	66.7%	No Change	57.7%	59.4%
Continuing contract teachers	80.0%	Up from 78.8%	81.8%	80.0%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	80.5%	Down from 85.8%	86.4%	85.9%
Teacher attendance rate	95.2%	Up from 94.5%	95.0%	95.1%
Average teacher salary*	\$48,574	Down 2.7%	\$46,608	\$47,149
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	10.8 days	Up from 10.5 days	11.7 days	11.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	5.0	Up from 4.0	5.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	17.8 to 1	Down from 18.4 to 1	18.6 to 1	18.8 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.8%	Up from 87.0%	90.0%	90.4%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$7,226	Down 6.2%	\$7,465	\$7,458
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	69.1%	Up from 68.3%	68.7%	68.8%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	65.9%	Up from 61.9%	61.9%	63.2%
% of AYP objectives met	94.1%	Up from 52.4%	100.0%	100.0%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	16	60	50
Percent satisfied with learning environment	93.8%	85.0%	89.6%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	93.8%	84.7%	87.8%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	87.5%	81.7%	94.0%

*Only students at the highest elementary school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Great Falls Elementary School is a Title I school located in rural southeastern Chester County with 442 students in Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade. The current free/reduced percentage of students is 76.7%. Great Falls Elementary School employs six National Board Certified teachers, which accounts for 27% of teachers in kindergarten through fifth grades.

This year, in conjunction with Title I requirements, GFE voluntarily participated in the External Review Team Liaison (ERTL) program, typically set aside for those schools with Unsatisfactory Absolute ratings on PACT. As part of the process, the school created a Focused School Renewal Plan (FSRP). State Department of Education consultant, Dr. Sherrill Jacob, partnered with GFE and helped to establish and oversee the FSRP process.

Current plans for the Plan for Restructuring at GFE for the 2009-10 school year include increasing the time for the instructional day by 30 minutes, and training of staff in becoming a Professional Learning Community, which emphasizes collaboration, a focus on results, and common grade level assessments.

With programs, supplies, and materials obtained with Title I Subgrant funds, GFE will attempt to close the achievement gap among student subgroups and achieve Adequately Yearly Progress as determined by the legislation known as No Child Left Behind.

At the same time, Great Falls Elementary strives to create a safe, warm, inviting atmosphere, where all students are valued for their varied strengths and talents. The arts programs at Great Falls Elementary are integral and vital components of the curriculum.

Mr. Jerry Digh, Principal
Mrs. Tonya Weir, SIC Chair

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